

SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT
ON THE
DORKING
URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT,

BY
E. L. JACOB,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

1897.

CONTENTS.

- I. STATISTICS—POPULATION, BIRTHS, and DEATHS.
- II. SUMMARY of SICKNESS and MORTALITY from the SEVEN PRINCIPAL ZYMOTIC DISEASES, and from other Diseases to which the Infectious Diseases (Notification) Act, 1889, applies, and of the ACTION taken for preventing their spread
- III. SUMMARY of OTHER PROCEEDINGS taken, during the year, under the Sanitary Acts, &c.
- IV. APPENDIX, containing certain TABLES.

Prepared in accordance with Sec. 14 of the Order of the Local Government Board dated 23rd March, 1891, Regulating the Duties of Medical Officers of Health.

DORKING :
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DORKING URBAN DISTRICT.

Area and Situation - 1,340 Acres, part of the Parish of Dorking.

Number of Inhabited Houses at Census, 1881 - - 1,212.

Ditto Ditto 1891 - - 1,425.

Population at Census, 1881 - - - 6,328.

Ditto Ditto, 1891 - - - 7,132.

Medical Officer's Report for the Year 1897.

1.—Population, Births, and Deaths.

1.—The *Population* of the district in the middle of the year may be estimated at 7,600 persons.

2.—The number of *BIRTHS* registered in the district, during the year, was 179, which is 26 more than in the previous year, and is at the *rate* of 23·5 per 1000 of the population.

3.—The total number of *DEATHS* registered in the district, during the year, was 107, as against 108 in the previous year. Deducting fourteen deaths, in the Workhouse and in the Cottage Hospital, of persons not belonging to the district, and adding one death, in the County Asylum, of a person belonging to the district, there remain 94 deaths, (as against 98 in the previous year), which represent an *annual death-rate* of 12·4 per 1000 of the population. See also Table I. at the end of the Report.

Both the Birth-rate and the Death-rate for the year were below the *average* rates of the district.

4.—The deaths from *Pulmonary Consumption* (10 in number) were at the rate of 1·3 per 1000 of the population, and were about the average of previous years. The deaths from *other Lung Diseases* (12 in number) were at the rate of 1·6 per 1000, which is below the average rate of previous years.

5.—The deaths of *Infants under one year* (13 in number) were equal to 7½ per cent. of the births, and were at about the average rate of the district.

6.—The Birth-rates, and certain Death-rates, for the year, in the other portions of the Surrey Combined Sanitary District, and in the Entire Combined District, as a whole, are shewn in Table III. at the end of the Report. (See also the following Table.)

Table, shewing certain Death-rates, and the Annual Birth-rate, of the District, for the years 1894, 1895, 1896, and 1897, and also the average of those rates for the ten years, 1884-93.

Years.	Annual Birth-rate per 1000 of the population.	Deaths from ALL CAUSES.	Deaths of Children under 1 year.	Deaths from Consumption.	Deaths from other Lung Diseases.
		Annual Rate per 1000 living.	Percentage to Registered Births.	Rate per 1000 living.	Rate per 1000 living.
1897.	23·5	12·4	7½	1·3	1·6
1896.	20·4	13·0	10½	1·6	2·1
1895.	23·5	12·3	5½	1·1	2·3
1894.	20·0	13·0	5½	1·1	2·5
Average of ten years, 1884-1893. }	24·4	14·5	8	1·4	2·6

II.—Summary of Sickness and Mortality, during the year, from the Seven Principal Zymotic Diseases and from certain other diseases to which the Infectious Diseases (Notification) Act, 1889, applies, and of the Action taken for preventing their spread.

1.—*Small Pox*. No case of this disease was notified.

2.—Of *Scarlet Fever*, otherwise called *Scarlatina*, no case was notified.

TABLE, shewing the Sickness recorded in the district from the undermentioned Zymotic Diseases, in each month of the year 1897, and in the six years, 1891-1896.

1897.	SCARLET FEVER.		DIPHTHERIA.		MEMBRANOUS GROUP.		TYPHOID FEVER.		SMALL POX.	
	Houses invaded.	No. of Cases.	Houses invaded.	No. of Cases.	Houses invaded.	No. of Cases.	Houses invaded.	No. of Cases.	Houses invaded.	No. of Cases.
January .....	...	...	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	...
February .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...
March .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
April .....	...	...	3	8	...	...	...	...	...	...
May .....	...	...	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	...
June .....	...	...	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	...
July .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
August .....	...	...	2	2	...	...	1	1	...	...
September .....	...	...	3	5	...	...	...	...	...	...
October .....	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
November .....	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...
December .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
TOTAL IN 1897 .....	...	...	15	24	...	...	2	2	...	...
TOTAL IN 1896	9	11	11	15	...	...	2	2	1	1
TOTAL IN 1895	9	13	6	9	...	...	1	1	...	...
TOTAL IN 1894	11	18	11	13	...	...	3	3	...	...
TOTAL IN 1893	8	9	8	11	...	...	...	...	4	5
TOTAL IN 1892	19	24	7	10	1	1	2	2	...	...
TOTAL IN 1891	96	187	13	17	2	2	3	3	...	...

3.—*Measles* caused no death.

4.—*Whooping Cough* caused one death.

5.—*Diarrhœa*, which was so fatal to infants last summer in some parts of the County, only caused one death.

6.—*Enteric* (otherwise called *Typhoid*) *Fever*. On about February 1st a woman, living in Lincoln Road, was attacked with this fever, from which she died on February 25th. The house-drain was found to be blocked and leaking into the next house.

On July 22nd a young woman was admitted into the Cottage Hospital from Westcott, and was attacked on August 3rd with what was pronounced to be *Enteric* fever, from which she died on August 11th.

No other cases were notified.

7.—*Diphtheria*. As will be seen, on reference to the preceding table, this disease was unusually prevalent in the district. Altogether there were 24 cases in 15 houses, with 5 deaths. Further particulars of the cases are given in the following tabular statement.

Situation of Premises.	Persons Attacked.	Dates of Attacks.	Probable source of Infection.	Remarks.
High Street	Boy, æt. 14 ...	Jan. 14...	Not traceable ...	Patient died suddenly from cardiac failure. Nature of disease not previously recognised.
West Street	Woman, æt. 38	Jan. 25...	From contact with the family in the High Street ...	
Howard Road	Woman, æt. 25	March 31...	Not traceable ...	Previous cases of sore throat in the house.
Knoll Road	Girl, æt. ?	April ?	Out of the district	Patient came here ill from School at Clapham.
Howard Road	Woman, æt. 38	April 11...	From one of the inmates of the infected house in this road, who had a sore throat	
Moore's Road	Boy, æt. 10 ...	March 29...	Not traceable ...	No advice sought at first. Paralysis of fauces noticed on April 19th. Attended School till April 9th.
	Girl, æt. 11 ...	April 8...	From previous patient	
	Girl, æt. 13 ...	April 10...	"	Died April 16th. Doctor called in on April 13th.
	Girl, æt. 5 ...	April 12...	"	Died on April 18th.
	Girl, æt. 4 ...	April 12...	"	
	Boy, æt. 1½ ...	April 14...	"	Died April 16th. House overcrowded.
Falkland Road	Boy, æt. 4 ...	May 6...	Not traceable ...	Attended School in Falkland Road.
Hampstead Road...	Boy, æt. 6 ...	May 11...	At Falkland Road School	Died May 17th.
Harrow Road West	Girl, æt. 11 ...	June 2...	Not traceable ...	
South Street	Man, æt. 30 ...	June 23...	Out of the district	Patient was brought here ill from London in an ambulance on June 24th.
Meadowbrook Road	Woman, æt. 22	August 17...	"	Patient was attacked five days after her return to Dorking from a visit to Kent.
North Street	Boy, æt. 7 ...	August 19...	Not traceable ...	
Roths Road	Boy, æt. 11 ...	Sept. ?	"	
Vincent's Road	Girl, æt. 6 ...	Sept. ?	"	Possibly contracted out of the district.
Off London Road...	Girl, æt. 4 ...	Sept. 22...	"	Illness possibly contracted at Pixham Lane School.
	Girl, æt. 6 ...	Sept. 26...	From previous case in house ...	
	Girl, æt. 2 ...	Nov. 28...		Had sore throat on October 2nd.
Pixham Lane	Boy, æt. 7 ...	Oct. 28...	Not traceable ...	Possibly caught at Pixham Lane School.
	Girl, æt. 4 ...	Nov. 5...	From previous case in house ...	

I could not attribute the appearance of these illnesses, in most of the houses, to the use of the milk from any particular dairy, or to local sanitary defects, or to communication with infected persons at any School or elsewhere, or to any other cause.

I availed myself, on one occasion, of the permission which the council had given me to get a bacteriological examination made, at their expense, as an aid to diagnosis, in a doubtful case of sore-throat, and, on another occasion, to assist in deciding whether a patient, convalescent from diphtheria, was free from infection.

The total number of deaths from the seven principal zymotic diseases (which do not include Croup or Laryngitis) was eight, which represents a *Zymotic Death-rate* of 1·0 per 1000 of the population.

As regards the other infectious diseases to which the "Notification Act," 1889, applies:—No case of *Membranous Croup* was notified. Two cases of *Puerperal Fever* were notified, viz., one in March in Pixham Grove, and one in December at Chalkpit Cottages. Five cases of *Erysipelas* were notified in five houses. None of these illnesses ended fatally.

The following further *action* was taken for preventing the spread of Diphtheria, and Enteric Fever:—the infected houses were visited by the Inspector and by my deputy or myself; disinfectants for daily use during illness were, in most cases, supplied, and their proper use explained; isolation of the sick was inculcated; local sanitary defects, when discovered, were remedied, as far as was practicable; and, after the removal, recovery, or death of the patients, disinfection of the houses and articles was performed by the owners or occupiers. Infected articles were removed from most of the houses and were disinfected at the expense of the District Council, by Mr. Holloway, of Hackbridge.

In March the County Council caused an Inquiry to be held at Dorking by a Committee into the matter of an application which had been made to them by the Dorking Rural District Council, under the Isolation Hospitals Act, 1893, for the establishment of an Isolation Hospital for this Urban District and the Dorking Rural District, and, being satisfied that an Isolation Hospital is necessary for these districts, they, in November, issued an Order forming them into a Joint Hospital District, fixing the constitution of the Hospital Committee and the day for the first appointment of the members of the Committee, and settling many other details connected with the establishment and management of the Hospital.

III.—Summary of other proceedings which were taken under the Sanitary Acts, etc.

1.—As to *house drainage*. The Surveyor informs me that the drains of 8 houses were connected with the sewers, during the year, making a total of 1506 houses which drain now into the sewers. The drains of several houses were provided by the owners with means of ventilation, but there are still many where the ventilation is capable of improvement.

2.—As to *water-closets*. Cisterns and water for flushing purposes were provided, during the year, by the owners, for 14 hand-flushed closets, in addition to the 149 which were so provided in the four previous years.

3.—“As to the supervision which was exercised, during the year, over places and houses which the Sanitary Authority have power to regulate.” The retail Bake-houses, and some of the Workshops and Workrooms were inspected. The Slaughter-houses were also regularly inspected and reported upon by the Inspector.

As to the inspection and regulation of *Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops*. The Inspector has sent me the following return for the year ending December 31st:—

Number of registered places at which business was being carried on at the commencement of the year.....	13
Number of persons registered during the year	1
Number of premises inspected during the year	14
Total number of inspections made during the year	28
Number of premises at which improvements in the lighting, ventilation, drainage, paving, means of cleansing, or water supply, were effected during the year.....	none.
Number of premises at which the milk vessels or other utensils were found in an unclean state	none.

5.—The Sanitary Inspector's returns show that 2808 cubic yards of *House Refuse* were removed by the District Council during the year. During the hot weather the refuse was removed every week from the houses in the most populous parts of the district. Seventy-one galvanized iron "Sanitary" ashbins were provided by owners of premises, as against 74 in the preceding year. At all houses erected during the year these ashbins were also provided.

6.—The Sanitary Inspector's Statement as to the *Nuisances* which were dealt with, and other work which was done, during the year, is given on page 8.

7.—As to the *Building Bye-laws*. The Surveyor informs me that 14 sets of Plans of New Buildings were submitted to the District Council for approval under the Bye-laws; and that in one instance legal proceedings were taken during the year for breach of the Bye-laws.

8.—*Proceedings under Sec. 6 of the Private Street Works Act, 1892*. The Surveyor informs me that one street (not being a highway repairable by the inhabitants at large) was made good by the owners and declared to be a highway.

9.—*Proceedings under Secs. 30 and 32 of the Housing of the Working Class Act, 1890*. No proceedings were taken under this Act.

10.—As to *Water-Supply*. One sample of water, which was sent to me from a private well in the district, was found to be spoilt by iron, and was otherwise of doubtful quality. The well was therefore abandoned and a supply taken from the Water Company's main.

The Dorking Water Company made further progress during the year with the task of obtaining an additional supply of water for the district from the "Deepdene Well," but had not completed the works before the close of the year.

In November, in reply to their enquiry, I advised the Council to arrange for the periodical chemical and bacteriological examination of the water supplied to their district by the Water Company from their gathering grounds at Westcott and the Redlands, from their deep well on Tower Hill and from the new "Deepdene Well" when it is brought into use, and, after conferring with the Water Company (who agreed to share the expense), the Council caused samples to be sent from the three first-named sources to the British Institute of Preventive Medicine, who reported that the samples from the deep well and from the Milton reservoir were very satisfactory, but that the water from the Redlands was not efficiently filtered and contained rather more vegetable matter in solution than was desirable. None of the samples showed the presence of any bacteria which might indicate contamination by sewage or other animal organic matter.

Signed, E. L. JACOB.

8, ALTENBURG GARDENS,
NEW WANDSWORTH, S.W.
January, 1898.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT

For the Year ending December 31st, 1897.

Number of Complaints received in writing	11
Number of Premises inspected	250
Number of Nuisances discovered	155
Number of Nuisances remedied without being reported.....	126
Number of Nuisances remedied after report	29
Number of formal Notices served for the abatement of Nuisances	29
Number of times that legal proceedings were taken for the abatement of Nuisances	—

Particulars of Work done by Owners or Occupiers, in compliance with notice:—

Number of filthy houses cleansed	4
Number of damp unwholesome houses provided with eaves' gutters and rainwater pipes, or otherwise repaired	—
Number of houses closed as unfit for habitation	—
Number of houses demolished.....	—
Number of houses in which overcrowding was abated	—
Number of houses for which efficient ventilation was provided.....	—
Number of new water-closets provided to old houses	19
Number of privies converted into water-closets	—
Number of water-closets for which cisterns and water were provided.....	14
Number of houses at which the drains were cleansed, laid, or relaid, ventilated, trapped, or disconnected from the house-pipes or rain-water pipes	14
Number of houses at which dustbins or ashpits were provided	71
Number of slaughter houses cleansed or repaired	4
Number of premises from which animals, improperly kept, were removed.....	—
Number of offensive accumulations, &c., removed	—

Foods:—Number of seizures as unfit for human consumption	—
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WATER SUPPLY:—Number of samples sent to the Medical Officer of Health for Analysis..	1
Number of houses supplied by owners with water from the Waterworks after notice under sec. 62 of the Public Health Act, 1875.....	—
Number of wells closed or abandoned, as being polluted	1

APPENDIX.

TABLE I.—TABLE OF DEATHS in the District during the year 1897, classified according to Diseases and Ages; and showing also the Population of the District and the Births therein during the year.

PLACE.	POPULATION, AT ALL AGES, AT MIDDLE OF 1897.	REGISTERED BIRTHS.	MORTALITY FROM ALL CAUSES, AT SUBJOINED AGES.						MORTALITY FROM SUBJOINED CAUSES, DISTINGUISHING DEATHS OF PERSONS UNDER 5 YEARS OF AGE.																			
			All Ages	under 1 year	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and upwards	Age.	Small Pox	Measles	Scarlatina	Diphtheria	Membranous Croup	Whooping Cough	Typhus	Continued Fever. Enteric or Typhoid Other or doubtful	Diarrhoea & Dysentery	Rheumatic Fever	Erysipelas	Puerperal Fever	Phthisis	Bronchitis, Pneumonia and Pleurisy	Heart Disease	Injuries & Accidents	All other Diseases	
Workhouse...			17			2		5	10	Under 5																		
										5 upwards.													2	5	3		7	
Cottage Hospital			5					2	2	1	Under 5																	
											5 upwards.						1					1	1				2	
Rest of District ..			85	13	3	6	2	25	36	Under 5				1		1			1					1			12	
										5 upwards.				4			1					8	9	9	2		36	
Total	7,600	179	107	13	3	8	4	32	47	Under 5				1		1			1				1				12	
										5 upwards.				4				2				11	15	12	2		45	

The subjoined numbers have to be taken into account, in judging of the above records of mortality.

Deaths in the District of persons not belonging thereto.	14				2	6	6	Under 5																				
									5 upwards.							1						1	4	2			6	
Deaths outside the District of persons belonging thereto.	1						1	Under 5																				
									5 upwards.																			1

TABLE I.—Showing the number of Deaths in the District from the Seven Principal Zymotic Diseases, during the twenty-four years, 1874-1897.

Year.	Small-Pox.	Measles.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Whooping Cough.	CONTINUED FEVER.				Diarrhoea.	TOTAL.	
						Typhus	Enteric or Typhoid	Other kinds.	Number.		Rate per 1000 of the population	
1874	5	...	7	1	2	5	2.5	
1875	3	2	1	...	8	...	2	17	2.7	
1876	...	3	...	...	3	...	1	2	...	7	1.1
1877	...	1	...	3	3	...	2	1	5	15	2.4	
1878	1	1	4	...	4	...	2	...	4	15	2.4	
1879	4	...	1	...	1	6	.9	
1880	...	5	...	...	1	...	3	...	4	13	2.0
1881	3	...	1	3	.5	
1882	1	...	2	1	1	5	.8	
1883	...	1	1	...	1	...	1	...	1	5	.7	
1884	3	...	...	1	2	6	.9	
1885	...	5	...	...	3	...	2	...	1	11	1.6
1886	1	1	..	...	...	1	3	.4	
1887	0	.0	
1888	1	4	...	..	...	...	5	.7	
1889	...	4	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	6	.8
1890	...	5	...	1	12	...	1	...	...	19	2.6
1891	10	5	1	...	1	...	1	18	2.5	
1892	2	2	0.28	
1893	...	3	...	2	1	...	..	...	...	6	0.83
1894	1	5	...	1	...	1	8	1.1	
1895	2	1	...	...	..	...	3	0.4	
1896	1	6	...	1	...	2	10	1.3	
1897	5	1	...	1	...	1	8	1.0	

Table III.—Shewing certain DEATH RATES, and the BIRTH RATES, for the Year, 1897, in each Rural and Urban District of the Surrey combined Sanitary District.

SANITARY DISTRICTS.	Estimated Population at middle of 1897.	BIRTHS. — Rate per 1000 of the Population.	ANNUAL RATE of MORTALITY per 1000 of the POPULATION, from				Per centage of Deaths under One Year to Registered Births.	NUMBER OF DEATHS FROM							
			ALL CAUSES.	The 7 Principal Zymotic Diseases.	Pulmonary Consumption.	Other Lung Diseases.		Small Pox.	Measles.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Croup.	Whooping Cough.	Fevers.	Diarrhoea.
CHERTSEY RURAL	10,900	26·4	10·2	0·9	0·8	2·0	11·5								10
CHERTSEY URBAN	12,600	25·7	13·9	0·95	2·2	1·5	10·8		1		1		1		9
WEYBRIDGE URBAN	4,500	18·1	8·2		1·1	0·9	6·8								
WALTON URBAN	8,800	24·4	9·5	0·8	1·1	1·5	9·7							1	6
DORKING RURAL	10,770	17·4	11·2	0·3	1·1	1·3	6·0							2	1
DORKING URBAN	7,600	23·5	12·4	1·0	1·3	1·6	7·3				5		1	1	1
EPSOM RURAL	16,680*	22·6	11·5	0·6	0·8	1·0	10·1				3	1	4	1	2
EPSOM URBAN	9,000	23·7	11·8	1·2	0·8	1·9	14·5								11
CARSHALTON URBAN	5,750	28·0	15·1	2·9	1·2	2·8	18·0			2					15
SUTTON URBAN	13,800*	23·0	13·2	2·5	1·3	1·9	13·9				3		6	3	23
LEATHERHEAD URBAN	4,850	20·8	10·5	1·4	1·0	1·2	8·9			1	1				5
REIGATE RURAL	15,100	25·3	10·6	0·2	0·66	1·8	8·0							1	2
REIGATE URBAN	24,400*	22·5	11·1	1·06	1·02	1·6	9·6		1	1	2		1	2	19
ENTIRE DISTRICT	144,750	23·35	11·56	1·03	1·1	1·6	10·47	—	2	4	15	1	13	11	104

* NOTE.—The Population and Deaths at the Banstead Asylum and at the Kensington and Chelsea District Schools, in the Epsom Rural District; at the South Metropolitan District Schools, in the Sutton Urban District; and at the Earlswood Asylum, in the Reigate Urban District, have been excluded from the Table. The Deaths in the Chertsey, Dorking, Epsom, and Reigate Workhouses and Cottage Hospitals of persons belonging to the adjoining Rural Sanitary Districts have been transferred to those Districts.

Table IV.—Shewing the NEW CASES OF INFECTIOUS SICKNESS coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health during the year 1897 in the undermentioned Sanitary Districts.

SANITARY DISTRICTS.	Aged under 5 or over 5.	NEW CASES OF SICKNESS IN EACH DISTRICT COMING TO THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.										NUMBER OF SUCH CASES REMOVED FROM THEIR HOMES IN THE SEVERAL DISTRICTS FOR TREATMENT IN ISOLATION HOSPITAL.				
		Smallpox.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Croup.	FEVERS.					Cholera.	Erysipelas.	Smallpox.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria	Enteric Fever.
						Typhus.	Enteric or Typhoid.	Continued.	Relapsing.	Puerperal.						
CHERTSEY RURAL	Under 5		1											1		
	5 upwards.		10	1			4					4		10	1	
CHERTSEY URBAN	Under 5		4	7								1		2	6	
	5 upwards.		13	16			4			3		12		10	13	2
WEYBRIDGE URBAN	Under 5															
	5 upwards.		6				2					1		5		
WALTON URBAN	Under 5		2											2		
	5 upwards.		13	4			4					2		5	3	2
EPSOM URBAN	Under 5		12	2										4		
	5 upwards.		30	2			4	1				9		19		2
SUTTON URBAN	Under 5		4	1										3		
	5 upwards.		24	8			11					3		19	1	1
CARSHALTON URBAN	Under 5		9	1			1							8		1
	5 upwards.		19	1			3			1		2		19		3
EPSOM RURAL	Under 5		4	4	1							1		1	2	
	5 upwards.	1	30	9			5					7	1	19	8	
LEATHERHEAD URBAN	Under 5		10	2										9	2	
	5 upwards.		32	4			3							25	2	
DORKING RURAL	Under 5		1	2				1				1				
	5 upwards.		3	7			3	1				5				
DORKING URBAN	Under 5			6												
	5 upwards.			18			2			2		5				
REIGATE RURAL	Under 5		17											10		
	5 upwards.		31	5			4			3		11		19		
REIGATE URBAN	Under 5		21											17		
	5 upwards.		101	7			7					6		86	1	
TOTALS IN 1897	Under 5		85	25	1		1	1				3		57	10	1
	5 upwards.	1	312	82			56	2		9		67	1	236	29	10
TOTALS IN 1896	Under 5		101	33	5		2					6		62	8	
	5 upwards.	1	313	116	1		34	1		1		90		214	26	1
TOTALS IN 1895	Under 5		50	28	2		1	2				5		31	9	
	5 upwards.		221	112	1		51	2		8		77		122	35	3
TOTALS IN 1894	Under 5		60	27	11		2	1				6		29	7	
	5 upwards.	3	267	100	1		48	2		10		109	1	139	24	4
TOTALS IN 1893	Under 5		107	33	20		5					14		38	3	
	5 upwards.	31	735	145	4		66	2		18		168	12	256	15	1

